

Dept - NIH  
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February 29, 1960

The Honorable John E. Fogarty  
200 Custom House Building  
Providence 3, R. I.

Dear Congressman Fogarty:

Thank you very much for your comprehensive reply regarding the Collaborative Project for Cerebral Palsy. I appreciated very much the effort that has gone into your review of this situation and wish to thank you for getting in touch with Dr. Masland, whom I will certainly see and talk to in the near future.

With respect to the challenge which you so graciously accepted to inform me of the research accomplishments made with monies available under the Cerebral Palsy Project, of course, I had in mind only the project in the state of Rhode Island, listed in your copy of publications under "Brown University". I could not presume to question the research being done at other centers. It was, therefore, with great interest, that I reviewed the publications listed under Brown University describing "work which was supported in whole or in part under the Collaborative Project".

I am sorry to say that review of the list of nine publications did not alter the impression I had. Three of the publications, by Dr. Denhoff and collaborators, are obviously review type articles covering techniques and methods which were in use long before the collaborative project was initiated. They do not appear to include any material accumulated from the date of the study supposedly under way.

I am personally acquainted with Drs. Denhoff and Laufer and Holden and know them all to be extremely competent and well versed in their field, as you do, and yet it is obvious that summary articles on various subjects in the field of cerebral palsy, which represent the results of work carried out prior to the initiation of the project can hardly be credited to the project.

Similarly, Dr. Ebner is a practicing clinician, the anesthesiologist-in-charge at the Lying In Hospital and it is to his credit that he has initiated the study of monitoring the fetal heart-beat during anesthesia, but this study was carried out with equipment originally designed for making brain wave studies in infants, which study has apparently been abandoned after being carried out for a year's time.

The brain wave study was carried out in such a manner that the tests taken cannot be compared in any way with later studies to be made on the same infants as they grow up. And, as you pointed out in your letter, page 2, paragraph 2, the "final results cannot be obtained until a number of children have been born and their conditions determined by adequate follup". It is my understanding that Dr. Bartoshek is now teaching psychology at Brown University, and while I am sure that this is what he wants to do, it certainly seems difficult to fit in such academic teaching appointment with supposed research in the field of Cerebral Palsy.

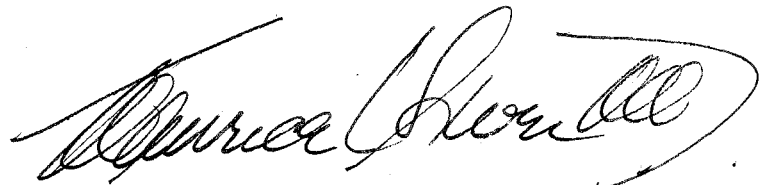
In any event, without going into too much detail, which is difficult in view of my lack of connection with the project, I can only confirm the impression that I gave in my previous letter to you, namely that in the Brown University Project, (the one that should be nearest to our hearts as Rhode Islanders) there has been little work carried on by members of the project, and yet a facade is being created based upon work done by individuals prior to the project and including work that would have been continued regardless of the presence or absence of the project, and we are asked to believe that this work is being supported by the large grants made possible through your worth-while efforts.

While this "window-dressing" is continuing, there are worth-while recordings and data that should be accumulated now as the infants are developing and growing up, and which are not being recorded, so that five years from now, when the data are desired, they will not be available.

It is easy to be critical of the serious efforts of others, but I would not wish to offer other than constructive criticism. Therefore, at his early convenience, I plan a trip to Bethesda to confer with Dr. Masland, and specify the data and techniques that might be incorporated into the Collaborative Project in the hope of learning more about the causative factors and methods of improving treatment in Cerebral Palsy.

With my thanks for your interest and help, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maurice L. Silver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Maurice L. Silver, M.D.

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